



Richard Fimbres
Councilmember
Ward 5

**Ward 5 Council
Office Staff**

Council Aides

Melinda Jacobs
Mark Kerr
Javier Herrera

Office Assistant

Heileen Evans

Interns

Jonathan Simpson
Sarah Odaiga
Lisa Estrada

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Ward 5

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City of Tucson

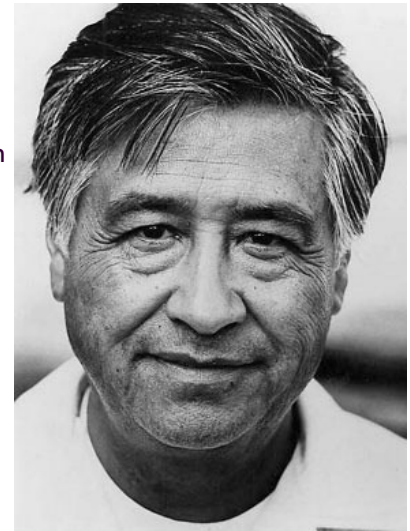
Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 9

March 2013

Honoring César Chávez' Memory

When Barack Obama campaigned to be the nation's 44th president, he used the simple mantra, "Yes We Can" -- a translation of civil rights leader Cesar Chavez's chant, "Si se puede." His admiration of the late civil right leader was most noted in his designation of Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz in California as a National Monument. The monument is the home of the late Cesar Chavez and his wife and was also home to the headquarters of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) since the early 1970s. There, hundreds of volunteers built the farm workers movement and planned campaigns for basic rights, like clean drinking water, protection from pesticides, and basic wages.



Sunday, March 31, will mark Cesar Chavez' 86th Birthday.

The civil rights leader, who fought for fair wages and humane treatment for California's farm workers, also championed principles of nonviolence through boycotts, fasts, and marches. In conjunction with Dolores Huerta, Chavez founded the United Farm Workers of America, an organization devoted to defending the rights of farmhands and field workers across the country.

In his remarks at the ceremony making Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz the fourth national monument designated by President Obama using the Antiquities Act, the President said, "more than higher wages or better working conditions, that was Cesar's gift to us -- a reminder that we are all God's children, that every life has value, and that, in the words of one of his heroes, Dr. King, 'we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.'" Every single one of his struggles, the leafleting, the marches, the fasts, were about ensuring that hard working, decent people were treated with the dignity and respect that all human beings deserve. He understood that ours is a country founded on the idea that we are all created equal, and he knew that whatever hardship it took, it was nothing compared to the daily struggles of tens of thousands of workers who labored in abhorrent conditions.

Activists have said that Cesar Chavez's words should be remembered in the fight for comprehensive immigration reform, the Dream Act, and the on-going struggle to end harsh state immigration laws like those in Arizona and Alabama.

When asked about what his father would do in addressing issues within the context of today, his son felt that his father would say, "Don't just be frustrated with the situation ahead of you. Get up and do something. Take action."

Ward 5 News

Cherrybell Post Office Processing Center Update

The US Postal Service has been a bright spot in the history of this nation, well operated, consistent and affordable. On February 25th however, it was identified that there would be a diversion of all outgoing mail from Tucson and Southern Arizona to Phoenix. This decision was not vetted nor were we ever formally informed that the postal service intended to make this shift in processing.

The City of Tucson is hopeful that a USPS representative will accept our request to come to a Study Session to discuss their ongoing actions concerning the Cherrybell Processing Center. Councilmember Fimbres has asked that this matter be put on a future study session and has requested that the Mayor and City Staff seek USPS representation.



From conversation with former Tucson Postmasters, Arnold Elias and Alvaro Alvarez, it is clear that the USPS should be required to provide a cost accounting study associated with the change in mail operations via Phoenix. A study of this action should be requested within a 60-90 day period from February 25th to assess it, as the trucking costs alone must be made public, not to mention the costs to our Arizona roads and infrastructure by this unnecessary action.

Another concern at the forefront of this issue is the election occurring in Southern Arizona. We will continue to observe any impediments to the election process as the State of Arizona was a leader in mail ballots and any changes in mail ballot return and/or failure to participate due to a lack of confidence in USPS and this will need to be reviewed by our County Recorder's Office and the appropriate State and Federal Agencies, Committees, and Congressional delegations.

In a good move by local community advocates, on March 24th, a National Day of Action to save the postal service was also held to bring attention to and save 6-day mail delivery, the Cherrybell Processing Plant, and postal jobs. Organized by the American Postal Workers Union, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the National Postal Mailhandlers Union, Occupy Tucson, and Jobs with Justice, the effort served to shed light on the fact that Congress has the fate of the postal service in its hands and that they could ultimately save it or dismantle the service to cater to private corporations.

As we move forward in working on this issue, we must all be sure to dismiss any rumors that the Cherrybell Processing Center closure is a done deal. Their actions to date are not final. Rather than wait for comprehensive postal reform to occur, the USPS is taking advantage of the delay in that legislation and ignoring the concerns of the Congressional offices of Raul Grijalva and Ron Barber with responsibility for the districts it affects.

TPD Division Advisory Committee

On Thursday, March 21st, TPD Operations Division South Commander, Captain Ramon Batista, held his first Division Advisory Committee meeting, of 2013, at the TPD Evidence Center to hear from businesses, neighborhood associations and community leaders about issues of concern. The goal of the meeting was to open ODS' lines of communication through direct contact with the community and to create opportunities to work together to address crime and quality of life issues for everyone in Division South.

Ward 5 News

At this meeting were many representatives from businesses, from El Super Market, Costco and Circle K, and neighborhood associations, from Elvira, Curacao, Bravo Park, Cherry Avenue and Sunnyside, as well as many community leaders. Both Mayor Rothschild's office and Vice Mayor Romero were represented at the meeting. I too had the opportunity to deliver a few remarks at the beginning of the meeting. I want to thank Captain Batista for his work and this first meeting, which will take place on a quarterly basis.



Ward 5 Shred-A-Thon

On Friday, March 22nd, the Ward 5 Council Office held a Shred-A-Thon. I want to thank everyone who came out and I want to thank my Ward 5 staff, interns Jonathan Simpson, Sarah Odiaga and Lisa Estrada for overseeing the event and Heileen Evans and Melinda Jacobs for their assistance to make the event a success.

City News

Sequestration and the City of Tucson

(Courtesy of Mayor Jonathan Rothschild)

The long-awaited sequester is here. While pundits argue about the consequences, some of Tucson's poorest families are about to experience them first-hand.

An across-the-board cutback to federal government programs and services, the sequester was intended to be too scary for rational folks to sit by and let it happen. Clearly, that strategy hasn't worked. Like March, the month it took effect, the sequester's in-like-a-lamb start masks what will be out-like-a-lion effects—effects Tucson is sure to feel. We have a major military base, a major defense contractor and a major research university. All will be affected. But some of the first to be affected are already the most vulnerable.



Starting in April, 250 to 400 Tucson families who receive Section 8 housing assistance will receive notice from the city's housing department that their benefits end in May. This means their lease will terminate and they will need to make arrangements with their landlord or find another place to live. To impact as few families as possible, the city's administration of the Section 8 program is taking a much steeper cut—31 percent—than program vouchers themselves, at 6 percent. The city is doing what we can to cushion the impact—but there's not a lot we can do. Families will be provided referrals to assistance organizations. But those nonprofits also rely on federal dollars that are being cut. And many shelters are already maxed out.

Last year, the U.S. Census put out a number that surprised some Tucsonans. We are the sixth poorest metropolitan area in the United States. That's not just the City of Tucson, but surrounding areas as well. A lot of Tucsonans cannot afford the basics. The city's waiting list for Section 8 housing vouchers is closed, with over 10,000 names on it. I certainly hope Congress gets its act together in time to prevent any Section 8 program terminations from having to take place. Our own representatives, Reps. Raúl M. Grijalva and Ron Barber, are pushing for an end to the sequester.

City News

In the meantime, my Poverty Task Force is looking for ways to help, to see if existing volunteer assistance programs can be expanded, even temporarily. Tucsonans are already working together on the problem of homelessness. For Congress to change our goal from making gains to holding ground is discouraging, but it points to a need this community has had for decades now.

Tucson loses \$70 million or more in state-shared revenue every year because, in Pima County, far fewer residents live in incorporated areas—Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley and Sahuarita —than in Maricopa County, which is almost entirely incorporated. We need that money here—fixing roads, maintaining parks and staffing our police and fire departments. They are our own tax dollars, that the state sends back to us or spends elsewhere. For that money to continue to flow from the sixth poorest metropolitan area in the country and be spent in Scottsdale or Paradise Valley, simply because Maricopa County has incorporated to a greater degree than Pima County, is unacceptable. Fixing Congress is a task on one order of magnitude, but fixing this imbalance, this annual drain on our local economy, is something we can do ourselves. Those who live in unincorporated areas of the county need to decide which city or town to belong to, or incorporate a new town, as our friends in Vail are doing.

The mayors in our region are agreed. We need to reclaim our own tax dollars for our own region. Congress needs to end the sequester. In the meantime, here in Southern Arizona, we need to do what we can to bring tax dollars back to our community.

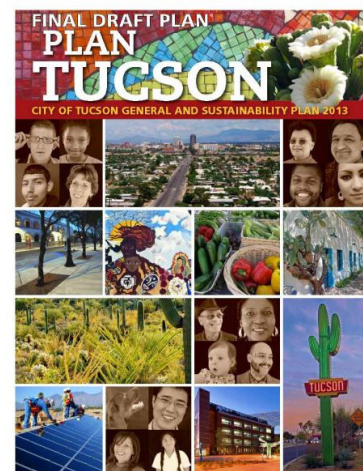
Plan Tucson

The final draft of Plan Tucson is now available for review, reflects staff recommendations for revisions approved by the Planning Commission at the February 27, 2013 meeting. The recommendations for revisions were based largely on more than 800 comments provided by approximately 100 commenters representing agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the general public.

Plan Tucson is the City's proposed replacement to the current General Plan. Arizona State Law requires municipalities to adopt a new or existing plan once every ten years. The General Plan is a long-term policy document intended to guide decisions affecting elements that shape the City, such as economic development, historic preservation, housing, water and energy resources and transportation and land use.

The Planning Commission of the City of Tucson will hold a public hearing on Plan Tucson and with recommended revisions as directed to staff on February 27, 2013. Interested persons will have an opportunity to express their opinion about the revisions to the Plan Tucson draft. The public hearing has been scheduled for: Wednesday, April 3, 2013, at or after 6:00 P.M. Pima Community College District Offices, Building C, Community Room 105, 4905 East Broadway Boulevard.

The Planning Commission is established to advise the Mayor and Council and various City Departments on the adoption of long-range plans, policies, specific plans and regulations that affect development. Upon review by the City's Planning Commission, Mayor and Council will have the opportunity to refer Plan Tucson to November's ballot for voter approval. If approved, Plan Tucson will become the City of Tucson's new General Plan. General information, working documents, maps, and contact information can be found on the Plan Tucson website at www.tucsonaz.gov/plantucson.



City News

MAYOR AND COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FY 14 BUDGET

The Mayor and Council have begun their discussions about the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014. This budget would go into effect, July 1 of this year and go until June 30, 2014. Prior to these discussions, Kelly Gottschalk, the City's Chief Financial Officer and Marie Nemerguth, the City's Budget Director, met with the respective Council offices and Mayor's office.

During the most recent Mayor and Council meetings, City staff has updated the Mayor and Council on projected revenues, proposals to deal with the initially projected deficit of \$15 million dollars and some financial statements from various City departments. Since becoming your Councilmember, sworn in on December 7, 2009, this is the fifth budget deficit that has had to be dealt with. On December 15, 2009, the Mayor and Council were informed that there was a shortfall of \$33.5 million for that current Fiscal Year (FY 2010). A few months later, it was a \$44.5 million dollar budget deficit for FY 2011, a \$55 million dollar deficit for FY 2012 and a \$20 million dollar deficit for this past fiscal year, FY 2013.

At the April 9th Mayor and Council meeting, further presentations will continue on the FY 2014 Budget. Here is the schedule for the Mayor and Council consideration of the FY 2014 Budget (subject to revision).

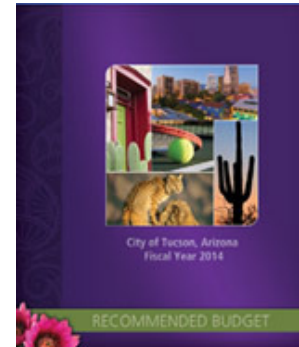
On April 16th, during the Mayor and Council meeting during the Study Session, the City Manager will formally submit his recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2014 and preliminary discussions will begin by the Mayor and Council. Further discussions will continue at the April 23rd Study Session of the Mayor and Council meeting regarding the Recommended Fiscal Year 2014 Budget submitted by the City Manager. During the Regular Agenda meeting on April 23rd, a public hearing will take place on the proposed budget.

Discussions will continue about the proposed budget at the May 7th, Mayor and Council Study Session meeting and a vote on an adoption of a tentative budget for FY 2014 will take place during the Regular Agenda meeting. On May 21st, during a Special Mayor and Council meeting, a vote on the final adoption of a budget for FY 2014 will take place. This will happen in the evening when the Regular Agenda meeting takes place. The Mayor and Council meets at 255 West Alameda, in City Hall, at the Council Chambers. For more information, please call the City Clerk's Office, 791-4213.

Congratulations and Thank You!

Recognized by City of Tucson: "The women we honor today; our pioneers, our nominees, our winners are our role models and our inspiration. These women are our movement forward. They are our momentum." -*Captain Carla Johnson, Tucson Police Department.*

With great pride, the City of Tucson and Ward 5 congratulates all of the women honored at the 2013 Women in Government Day Recognition Awards. Thank you to the nominators for taking the time to recognize their efforts. One of those nominated was Melinda Jacobs from the Ward 5 Council Office.



Ward 5 Announcements

Boys and Girls Club

On Saturday, March 2nd, a dedication of the new Teen Room located at the Boys and Girls Club Holmes Tuttle Clubhouse, 2585 East 36th Street, was held. The Teen Room was a collaborative effort between the Club and the private sector. Congratulations to Armando Rios, Lorraine Morgan and the wonderful staff at the Boys Club for this new room for Teens and to the Board, as well as all the members of the private sector who helped to make this dream, a reality.

Memberships for kids at the Boys and Girls Club Holmes Tuttle Clubhouse are just \$5 a year. I and members of my staff are going to be sponsoring kids for membership and for more information, please call 622-0694.

In Memory of Dr. Henry "Hank" Oyama



Memorial services for Dr. Henry "Hank" Oyama were held Monday, March 25, at St. Augustine's Cathedral, 192 S. Stone Ave, with hundreds of people from the Tucson community in attendance. Dr. Oyama was 86 years old and passed away on March 20. He was born and raised here in Tucson, and at age 15 was innocently interned along with 120,000 other Japanese Americans in relocation camps in the western United States. Hank was sent to such a camp north of here in Poston, Arizona with his mother and sister. He was drafted into the U.S. Army after spending 15 months in that internment camp, and later enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, from which he retired as Lt. Colonel.

After returning to Tucson he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Arizona in education, and taught at Pueblo High School for 18 years. Following that he was hired at Pima Community College as director of bilingual and international studies, later became Associate Dean of that program, and eventually retired from PCC in 1991 as Vice President Emeritus. He was bilingual in Spanish and was well known for his advocacy for Hispanic students in Tucson, and established the Hispanic Student Endowment Fund. In 2003 an elementary school in Tucson was named after him at 2700 S. La Cholla Blvd. He was a great man for which I had the honor and privilege of working with Hank at Pima College, as well as setting up the Amigos de Pima Scholarship Fund. He was a man of integrity and will be missed.

Here is the eulogy delivered at the funeral of Henry "Hank" Oyama by Councilmember Richard Fimbres. This eulogy was written by Richard and Mary Fimbres.

Mrs. Ann Oyama, the Oyama family and distinguished guests. We are here to say goodbye to a dear friend and leader in our community. It is a great honor to stand before you today to honor a man of integrity, an excellent role-model and mentor to many of us. In his life, Hank distinguished himself in education, military service to his country, civil rights and service to our community. Very few of us in our lifetimes, will be remembered as bridge builders.

However, when Hank was named Tucson Man of the Year in 1993 by the Metropolitan Tucson Chamber of Commerce and at the dedication of the Henry "Hank" Oyama Elementary School in 2003, much attention was given to Hank being a "master bridge builder." Hank has built linguistic, cultural and legal bridges between communities and countries. His effective contributions have been recognized by the Hispanic, African American, Pan Asian, Jewish and Caucasian Communities.

Dr. Henry “Hank” Oyama (continued)



Hank Oyama's achievements can be said to have started with his military service in the Counter Intelligence Corps of the U.S. Army. Ironically, his military service, Jan- 1945 to June 1947, took place after having been detained a year and a half, along with his mother and sister at the Poston Internment Camp also known as War Relocation Camp. This camp held some 20,000 Japanese-Americans. Hank believed “it doesn’t really matter what happens to you, what matters is how you react to what happens to you.” In spite of this negative life experience Hank retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force. He was a true patriot of this country.

Hank believed “it doesn’t really matter what happens to you, what matters is how you react to what happens to you.” In spite of this negative life experience Hank retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force. He was a true patriot of this country. Another notable achievement took place when in September 1959 Hank and Mary Ann Jordan wanted to marry. They were denied a marriage license because an Arizona law prohibited interracial marriages. He fought a successful legal battle to repeal Arizona’s Anti-miscegenation law all the way to the Arizona Supreme Court. For this civil rights milestone, the University of Arizona recognized him with an Honorary Doctorate of Law and on March 20, 2009 the ACLU also recognized him at the 50th anniversary of the repeal of the law. In our community Hank was known as one of the founding fathers of bilingual education. It all started in 1955, when Hank was selected to be part of the original faculty at the new Pueblo High School. While at Pueblo, Hank was part of a team that planned and executed a curriculum for native Spanish speakers to improve their abilities in both Spanish and English. Their efforts contributed to Pueblo receiving national recognition.



Because of their efforts at Pueblo, and their study and report on Mexican-American students' education, two U.S. Senators introduced legislation creating funding for Bilingual Education. I had the pleasure of working with Hank on several community projects including the founding of the Hispanic Student Endowment Fund of the Pima Community College Foundation, but with Hank’s passion and tenacity, he single handedly raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship monies for students enrolled at Pima Community College. Hank achieved much in other areas of service to the community, the nation and internationally. Just a partial listing includes: HPAC, Rotary Club of Tucson, founded the 1st LULAC Council in Tucson, Marshall Foundation, Hispanic-Jewish Dialogue, Luz Social Services and Luz Academy, Amistades, Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson, Arizona Historical Society, Mexican Consulate of Tucson, National Board of Directors of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, Advisor to the Overseas Liaison Committee of the American Council on Education, Tucson Pima Public Library Board of Directors, TUSD Latino Advisory Council, Department of State delegate to Madrid, Spain on bilingual education. Hank received many awards and recognition too numerous, but just a few I will mention gives us an indication of the high regard others in the community have for Hank: UA Dr. Martin Luther King “Distinguished Leadership Award,” UA Asian American Faculty, Staff and Alumni Association “Outstanding Alumni Award,” HPAC “Lifetime Achievement Award,” Arizona Minority Bar Association “Champion of Diversity Award,” Pan Asian Community Alliance Man of the Year, Vice President Emeritus, Pima College, LULAC National Presidential Citation, Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona “Land of the Free and Home of the Brave Award.”



Hank would always say that there would always be opposition or barriers to prevent you from reaching your goals, but not to let it stop you. That you had to keep trying and to keep moving forward. Believe in yourself.

He led a very successful life, but not without sacrifices to make it happen. Ann, thank you and the family for sharing Hank with our community for all these years that he was out there trying to improve the quality of life for our educators, students and the citizens of the City of Tucson.

Hank has truly been a great community activist and leader. He has been a great role-model and mentor to me and I'm sure for many others here today. If you knew Hank the way I had the pleasure of knowing him, though he passed on to his reward, his memory is very much alive in our hearts, and in our minds.

We can honor Hank by remembering his family and loved ones in our prayers. Let us honor him this day, and every day we have the occasion of thinking of the man he was and, if we will let our lives be tempered by the example that he lived by, the memory of Hank will live on in everyone of us, and in the lives of all of those we touch.

The following poem was reportedly inscribed on the wall of Mother Teresa's children's home in Calcutta, and attributed to her. It was also reported that the original version of this poem was written by Kent M. Keith.

ANYWAY

People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered,
LOVE THEM ANYWAY
If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives,
DO GOOD ANYWAY

If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies,
SUCCEED ANYWAY
Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable,
BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY

What you spent years building may be destroyed tonight,
BUILD ANYWAY
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
BE HAPPY ANYWAY
The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow,
DO GOOD ANYWAY

People really need help but may attack you if you help them,
HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough;
GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU'VE GOT...ANYWAY.
You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;
IT WAS NEVER BETWEEN YOU AND THEM ANYWAY.



Frequently Used Phone Numbers

Emergency Services

Tucson Police Department or Tucson Fire Department
DIAL 911

Permits

Planning and Development Services Department
791-5550

Housing Assistance

City of Tucson Community Services Department
791-4739

Tucson Convention Center

791-4101

Code Enforcement & Graffiti Removal

792-CITY (2489)

Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department
791-3171

Transportation & Street Maintenance

Tucson Department of Transportation
791-3154

Tucson Water Department

Billing - 791-3242
Public Information - 791-4331

ParkWise

791-5071

Pima Animal Care

243-5900



Community Food Bank

**Help those who are in need.
Give to the Community Food Bank.
For more information call: 520-622-0525**

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Ward 5 City Council Office
4300 S. Park Avenue
Tucson Arizona 85714

Phone: 520-791-4231

Fax: 520-791-3188

Ward5@tucsonaz.gov

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